

CHaSE Committee Notes Feb. 3, 2023

The committee reviewed notes from the 1/27/23 meeting and approved them for posting publicly.

The committee discussed how to utilize individual rubrics and decided that each member would keep completed rubrics for each program until all programs are reviewed. Jennifer A. can compile rubric results into charts for easier analysis if the committee would like her to do so.

The committee discussed the district's plan to divide the Violence Prevention TEKS (Sex Trafficking, Child Abuse, Family Violence and Dating Violence) among the district guidance counseling staff. The reason for this is so that students who OPT IN would have more opportunities to learn the information in yearly guidance lessons as opposed to just learning it in 6th grade health and high school health. The district believes the guidance counselors may be better equipped to present this sensitive information and to handle outcry from students. Also, permission slips for opt in lessons must be sent out 14 days prior to instruction. Separating the permission slips between Health for the Sex Ed instruction and Guidance/Counselors for the Sex Trafficking and Healthy/Unhealthy relationships means less permission slips to manage for health teachers.

The SHAC standing committee, "Safe and Healthy Schools" is looking at programs to cover Sex Trafficking and Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships. They are currently reviewing materials from Ransomed Life. The Ransomed Life video, *Lures & Lies* is available to watch here:

<https://www.ransomedlifetexas.org/ondemand>

Discussion of 6th grade program materials: *Choosing the Best Way*:

The committee discussed the "Sexual Violence" topic (pg.22) in Lesson 3 in *Choosing the Best Way*. Some committee members posed the suggestion of moving the "Sexual Violence" topic to another portion of the materials because its placement seems disjointed. Further, refusal to opt-in for sexual violence would cause students to miss potentially valuable information in other areas of lesson 3. A suggestion was made to add sexual violence to the guidance lessons. Counselors could use the Board Approved HSAE instructional materials to scaffold their guidance lessons on Sexual Violence. Ultimately, CHaSE needs to decide whether to include sexual violence with the HSAE materials or have guidance add it to their opt-in Violence Prevention lessons.

The committee discussed the STD lessons in Lesson 4 (pg. 30.) Some committee members felt that the lesson went beyond the scope of TEK 23C (define sexually transmitted infections and sexually transmitted diseases as infections or diseases that are spread through sex or sexual activity) with graphic descriptions of STDs and their symptoms, stating that discharge from chlamydia or gonorrhea can be messy or oozy and comparing it to green slime or goo held up by the teacher. Page 30 describes genital warts from HPV as lumpy and in clusters and compares an up close examination of genital warts as similar to cauliflower which the teacher is directed to break off and pass around the class. While describing the painful blisters or sores produced by Genital Herpes, the teacher is directed to pop bubble wrap. Though students have different learning modalities, the consensus was that these particular activities should not be used if CHaSE chooses to recommend this program to the board.

A concern was brought up that the presentation of minors in the videos as being or having been sexually active potentially normalizes sex for students in 6th grade and potentially desensitizes them, especially since **TEC 28.004 states that the HSAE program should devote more attention to abstinence from sexual activity than to any other behavior.** Other comments pointed out that the instructional materials utilize guided discussion to bring conversations back to abstinence and that the instructional materials reach a variety of students at different stages all over the district and need to encompass factual information that some students may not receive at home.

Katie S. pointed out that the reproductive supplement to cover reproductive and sexual health TEKs for 6th grade and high school is at the bottom of the online access materials for Choosing the Best Way.

Homework: Please complete the rubric for Choosing The Best Way and begin looking at Esteem (High School) Embark. We will meet again on Feb.10 at 11:30am.